

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01 /125 W

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R 211331Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1266

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8196

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CI

SUBJECT: CHILEAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

REF: STATE 186005

SUMMARY WHILE CHILEAN MILITARY ATTACHE WAS CLEARLY DELIGHTED BY
COUP, CHILEAN AMBASSADOR REACTED WITH PANIC AND NEAR-SHOCK. AMBASSADOR

HENRIQUEZ HAS SAID RELATIVELY LITTLE SINCE. HE THANKED DEMONSTRATORS
WHO APPEARED AT EMBASSY PLEDGING SOLIDARITY WITH ALLENDE, VOLUNTEERED
OPINION ALLENDE WAS ASSASSINATED, AND AT FIRST SAID HE PLANNED TO
RETURN TO CHILE TO CARRY ON STRUGGLE. HE RESIGNED SEPTEMBER 13,
LEAVING EMBASSY IN HANDS OF CHARGE TORRES. HENRIQUEZ NOTE TO FOREIGN
MINISTER IS BEING USED BY COPEI AS EVIDENCE HE DID NOT HOLD LOCAL
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN ANY WAY RESPONSIBLE. SEPTEMBER 17 HENRIQUEZ
TOLD PRENSA LATINA HE WILL SEEK ASYLUM IN MEXICO. BY BEGINNING OF
THIS WEEK TORRES WAS CLEARLY IN CHARGE AND ACTING FOR JUNTA. END
SUMMARY

1. COL MARCELO HERNAND BEJARES GONZALES, CHILEAN MILITARY ATTACHE,
TOLD ACTING ARMY ATTACHE SEPTEMBER 12, 1973 THAT CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO
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VENEZUELA LUIS HENRIQUEZ AVECEDO INITIALLY REACTED TO NEWS OF ALLENDE OVERTHROW WITH PANIC AND NEAR-SHOCK. BEJARES, AS NOTED IN DAO REPORT IR 6 702 0220 73, WAS DELIGHTED BY JUNTA TAKEOVER AND OPEN IN SHARING IDEAS ABOUT SITUATION WITH ACTING ARMY ATTACHE.

2. SEPTEMBER 12, SPEAKING IN CONNECTION WITH MARCH TO CHILEAN EMBASSY ORGANIZED BY CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, AMBASSADOR HENRIQUEZ LIMITED SELF TO APPEARING BEFORE DEMONSTRATORS AND THANKING THEM. HE TOLD SMALL GROUP FROM UNIVERSITY PRIVATELY HE WOULD RESIGN AND RETURN TO CHILE TO "CONTINUE STRUGGLE". HE ALSO TOLD NEWSMEN THAT IN ABSENCE OF WORD FROM

SANTIAGO IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT ALLENDE DID NOT COMMIT SUICIDE BUT WAS ASSASSINATED. HE ATTRIBUTED COUP TO "IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION."

3. HENRIQUEZ OFFICIALLY RESIGNED SEPTEMBER 13 AND COMMUNICATED HIS DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE TOLD PRESS AT THAT TIME HE WOULD RETURN TO CHILE END OF MONTH; HE INDICATED HE HAD RESIGNED VOLUNTARILY AND SAID CHARGE RIGOBERTO TORRES ASTORGA WOULD TAKE OVER WHILE AWAITING NEW AMBASSADOR. TORRES, IN TURN, HAS AVOIDED PERSONAL COMMENT SINCE THAT TIME. HENRIQUEZ' NOTE OF RESIGNATION TO FOREIGN MINISTER CALVANI IS BEING USED BY GOVERNING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY COPEI TO SHOW THAT EVEN ALLENDE'S MAN DID NOT BLAME LOCAL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FOR HAVING CONNIVED IN COUP. NOTE READS IN PART, "I CARRY WITH ME FROM VENEZUELA THE IMPERISHABLE MEMORY OF HAVING DWELLED IN A WORTHY AND DEMOCRATIC LAND WHOSE GOVERNMENT DOES HONOR TO THE DESTINY ASSIGNED IT BY ITS LIBERATOR, GENERAL SIMON BOLIVAR. I WISH TO EXPRESS . . . MY SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND ALL MY GRATITUDE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, DR. RAFAEL CALDERA, FOR HIS NOBILITY AND TOUCHING SENTIMENTS

EXPRESSED PUBLICLY ON THE OCCASION OF THE TRAGIC DEATH OF THE GREAT PRESIDENT OF MY COUNTRY, DR. SALVADOR ALLENDE."

4. NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 13 HENRIQUEZ TOLD DEMONSTRATION AT CHILEAN EMBASSY LED BY UP-IMITATING NEW FORCE, . . . I KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THAT I CONTINUE TO BE, MORALLY, THE AMBASSADOR OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE TO THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA." HOWEVER BY SEPTEMBER 17 HENRIQUEZ WAS TELLING PRESNSA LATINA HE HAD SOUGHT ASYLUM IN MEXICO FOR HIMSELF AND WIFE. HE ACCUSED TORRES OF NOT LETTING HIM IN THE EMBASSY OR NEAR HIS PERSONAL EFFECTS. TORRES TOLD PRESS HENRIQUEZ IS AN OLD CONFIDENTIAL

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FRIEND, IS WELCOME AT THE EMBASSY, BUT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TAKE CHARGE.

5. BY BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK TORRES APPEARED TO BE FULLY IN CONTROL OF EMBASSY OPERATIONS AND WAS ISSUING STATEMENTS AUTHORIZED BY CHILEAN JUNTA. FISHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CARACA08196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS FISHER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730919/aaaaaoaz.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 186005
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHILEAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005